US Army Corps of Engineers
Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435

Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	ASJ-MVK-2004-291
EVALUATOR:	Ms. A. Susan Jarvis
PHONE NO.:	(601) 631-5146
FAX NO.:	(601) 631-5459
E-MAIL:	regulatory@mvk02.usace.army.mil
DATE:	July 30, 2004
EXPIRATION DATE:	August 20, 2004

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services are considering an application for a Department of the Army permit and State water quality certification for the work described herein. A water quality certification is required in accordance with statutory authority contained in the LRS 30:2074 A(3) and provisions of the Clean Water Act. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-OD-F, at the above address, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, Post Office Box 4313, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has a copy of the application on file in their office in Baton Rouge and may be inspected at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Copies may be obtained from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality upon payment of cost of printing. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will make a final decision on the water quality certification pertaining to this application within 30 days after expiration of this notice.

Law Requiring a Permit: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Name of Applicant:
Louisiana Department of
Transportation and Development
Post Office Box 94245
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Name of Agent:
Mr. Jeff Robinson, P.E.
Louisiana TIMED Managers,
Incorporated
Suite 200
6300 Corporate Boulevard
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809

Location of Work: Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 14, and 15 of T20N-R3W; sections 2, 3, 22, 26, 27, 34, and 35 of T21N-R3W; sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 15, 22, 23, 26, 27, 34, and 35 of T22N-R3W and sections

6, 7, 8, 16, 17, 21, 22, 27, and 34 of T23N-R3W, latitude 32°55′44″ longitude 92°39′23″, within the Bayou D'Arbonne drainage basins, Lincoln and Union Parishes, Louisiana.

<u>Description of Work</u>: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit to mechanically clear and fill 36.43 acres of wetlands and 6.98 acres of other waters of the United States associated with the construction and maintenance of the widening and overlay of U.S. Highway 167 from Dubach, Louisiana, to the Arkansas state line at Junction City, Louisiana. The total project is described as six project segments.

The Dubach, Louisiana to Union Parish line project segment would begin approximately one mile south of the intersection with Louisiana Highway 545 in Dubach and would extend in a northerly direction for 2.5 miles from STA. 611+40 to 652+00, ending approximately 0.2 mile south of the Union Parish line. The existing roadway would remain in place on the southern and northern ends of the Dubach, Louisiana to Union Parish line segment serving the southbound and northbound traffic, respectively. Two new lanes of asphaltic concrete roadway, separated from the existing highway by a depressed median varying in width from 66 feet to 167 feet, would be constructed to the west of the existing highway. For the remaining 1.2 miles of this project segment, the existing roadway would be removed and replaced on the same general alignment with a new four-lane asphaltic concrete roadway.

The Lincoln Parish line to Bernice, Louisiana project segment would begin approximately 0.2 mile south of the Lincoln Parish line, and would extend in a northerly direction for 3.4 miles from STA. 652+00 to 705+30, ending at the south side of Bernice. The existing roadway would remain in place on the southern and northern ends of this project segment serving northbound and southbound traffic, respectively. Two new lanes of asphaltic concrete roadway would be constructed to the west of the existing highway and would be separated from the existing highway by a 66-foot-wide depressed median. Along the remaining 1.7 miles of this project segment, the existing highway would be removed and replaced along the same general alignment with a new four-lane asphaltic concrete roadway.

The project segment, Louisiana Highway Alternative 2 to Corney Bayou, would begin approximately one-half mile north of the junction of U.S. Highway 167 with Louisiana Highway Alternative 2 and would extend in a northerly direction for 2.8 miles from STA. 751+30 to 796+00, ending approximately 0.3 mile south of the bridge at Corney Bayou. The existing roadway would remain in

place on the southern and northern ends of this project segment serving southbound traffic and northbound traffic, respectively. Two new lanes of asphaltic concrete roadway, separated from the existing highway by a depressed median that varies in width from 66 feet to 80 feet, would be constructed to the east of the existing highway. For the remaining 0.9 mile of this project segment, the existing highway would be removed and replaced with a four-lane asphaltic concrete roadway on the same general alignment.

The project segment, Corney Bayou to Lillie, Louisiana, would begin 0.3 mile south of the Corney Bayou bridge on U.S. Highway 167 and would extend in a northerly direction for 3.2 miles from STA. 796+00 to 851+50, ending at the north end of Lillie. The existing roadway would remain in place for northbound traffic for this project segment. Two new lanes of asphaltic concrete roadway would be constructed for southbound traffic west of the current highway, separated from the existing highway by a depressed median varying in width from 80 feet to 340 feet.

The project segment, Lillie, Louisiana, to the Arkansas state line-south section would begin at the north side of Lillie on U.S. Highway 167 and would extend in a north-northwesterly direction for 4.1 miles from STA. 851+50 to 919+07. The existing roadway would remain in place for northbound traffic for this project segment. Two new lanes of asphaltic concrete roadway, separated from the existing highway by a depressed median varying in width from approximately 66 feet to 330 feet, would be constructed to the west of the current highway for southbound traffic.

The project segment, Lillie, Louisiana, to Arkansas state line-north section would begin approximately three miles south of the Arkansas state line on U.S. Highway 167 from STA. 919+07 to 966+57, ending at the intersection with West Third Street in Junction City, Louisiana. Along the southernmost section of this project segment, the existing three-lane section would be converted to two lanes for northbound traffic. Two new lanes of asphaltic concrete roadway, separated from the highway by an 88-foot-wide depressed median, would be constructed to the west of the existing highway. For the next 1.1 miles of this project segment, the existing roadway would be removed and replaced with a new four-lane asphaltic concrete roadway, separated from the existing highway by an 88-foot-wide depressed median on the same general alignment. The northernmost 0.5 mile of the project within Junction City, Louisiana, would be constructed as a five-lane Portland cement urban section.

Roadbed dimensions for the new two-lane highway would average 40 feet top width and 80 feet bottom width. Each lane would be 12 feet wide. The average cleared right-of-way width would be 245 feet. The project would require approximately 2,516,730 cubic yards of general excavation and 2,290,040 cubic yards of embankment. The total project length would be 19 miles.

The purpose of the work is to widen and upgrade the existing U.S. Highway 167 roadway, to provide a four-lane north-south link from Alexandria to the Arkansas state line to improve vehicular mobility and to improve accessibility along the U.S. Highway 167 corridor by increasing the safety and level of service of the highway.

The proposed project calls for the existing U.S. Highway 167 from Dubach, Louisiana, to the Arkansas state line, Lincoln and Union Parishes, to be four-laned and upgraded to meet current transportation standards. This proposed project is the result of legislation created in 1989, known as the Transportation Infrastructure Model for Economic Development (TIMED), which designated certain highways and transportation facilities for improvement. One objective of the TIMED program is to ensure that a four-laned highway connects most major urban areas of the state. The four-laning of U.S. Highway 167 is an important element in linking central and north Louisiana with Arkansas.

A total of 46 sites were delineated and 19 sites were identified as wetlands that would be impacted by the project. Site B01 covers an area located in the vicinity of Station No. (STA.) 659+38 to 668+75, and would impact approximately 4.19 acres. Sites C01 to C04 cover an area located in the vicinity of STA. 797+75 to 826+30, and would impact approximately 13.12 acres of wetlands. Sites C07 to C09 cover an area located in the vicinity of STA. 840+50 to 847+35, and would impact approximately 1.73 acres of wetlands. Sites S01 to S02 are located in the vicinity of STA. 854+15 to 862+60, and would impact approximately 0.70 acre of wetlands. Sites S06 and S07 cover an area located in the vicinity of STA. 876+20 to 889+40, and would impact approximately 3.92 acres of wetlands. Sites S09 to S11 are located in the vicinity of STA. 893+15 to 907+95, and would impact approximately 0.89 acre of wetlands. Sites N01 to N04 cover an area located in the vicinity STA. 919+50 to 948+10, and would impact approximately 11.88 acres of wetlands.

The dominant species of vegetation at the 19 delineated wetland sites include: *Acer rubrum*, *Alternanthera philoxeroides*, *Callicarpa americana*, *Carpinus caroliniana*, *Celphalanthus occidentalis*, *Hamamelis virginiana*, *Ilex opaca*, *Ites virginiana*, *Juncus effusus*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Lonicera japonica*, *Magnolia* virginiana, *Nyssa sylvatica*, *Osmunda cinnamomea*, *Pinus elliottii*, *Pinus taeda*, *Polygonum amphibium*, *Quercus falcata*, *Quercus nigra*, *Symplocos tinctoria*, *Taxodium distichum*, *Toxicodendron radicans*, *Ulmus alata*, and *Vitis rotundifolia*.

A total of approximately 36.43 acres of jurisdictional wetlands would be impacted by the construction of the captioned project, including the cleared right-of-way. The applicant proposes to begin mitigation for the wetlands being impacted by construction activities for this project by minimizing impacts in accordance with their standard specifications. Unavoidably lost wetland functions and values would be appropriately mitigated.

A total of 6.98 acres of other waters of the United States would be impacted by the construction of the captioned project, including the cleared right-of-way. Of the 46 delineated sites, 32 sites were identified as other waters of the United States. The locations and amounts of impacts for these sites are shown in the Wetland Delineation Site Summary Tables (D, B, A, C, S, and N sites).

The proposed bridges over Bayou D'Arbonne Middle Fork, located in the vicinity of STA. 659+38 to 661+12, and the Bayou D'Arbonne Middle Fork Relief, located in the vicinity of STA. 665+57 to 665+99 would be concrete slab span bridges. The proposed bridges over Corney Bayou, located in the vicinity of STA. 800+28 to 801+63 and the Corney Bayou Relief, located in the vicinity of STA. 803+08 to 803+74 would be concrete slab span bridges. The proposed bridge over Middle Slough would be a concrete slab span bridge and would be located in the vicinity of STA. 808+06 to 809+26. The proposed bridge over North Slough would be a concrete slab span bridge and would be located in the vicinity of STA. 811+40 to 812+06. The proposed bridge over Jenks Branch would be a concrete slab span bridge and would be located in the vicinity of STA. 857+68 to 857+92. The proposed bridges over Beaver Creek-North Bound, located at STA. 946+70 and the Beaver Creek-South Bound, located in the vicinity of STA. 946+90 would be concrete slab span bridges. Impacts to wetlands associated with the bridge construction would include approach and revetment work.

The placement of dredged and/or fill material in waters of the United States associated with the mechanized land clearing requires a Department of the Army Permit.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

<u>State Water Quality Permit</u>: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

<u>Cultural Resources</u>: An initial review indicates that the proposed project would not affect any of the sites in Lincoln and Union Parishes listed in the <u>National Register of Historic Places</u>. Copies of this notice have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, the Corps archaeologists, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to cultural resources that could result from this activity.

Endangered Species: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any endangered species or their critical habitat. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the described work.

Flood Plain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

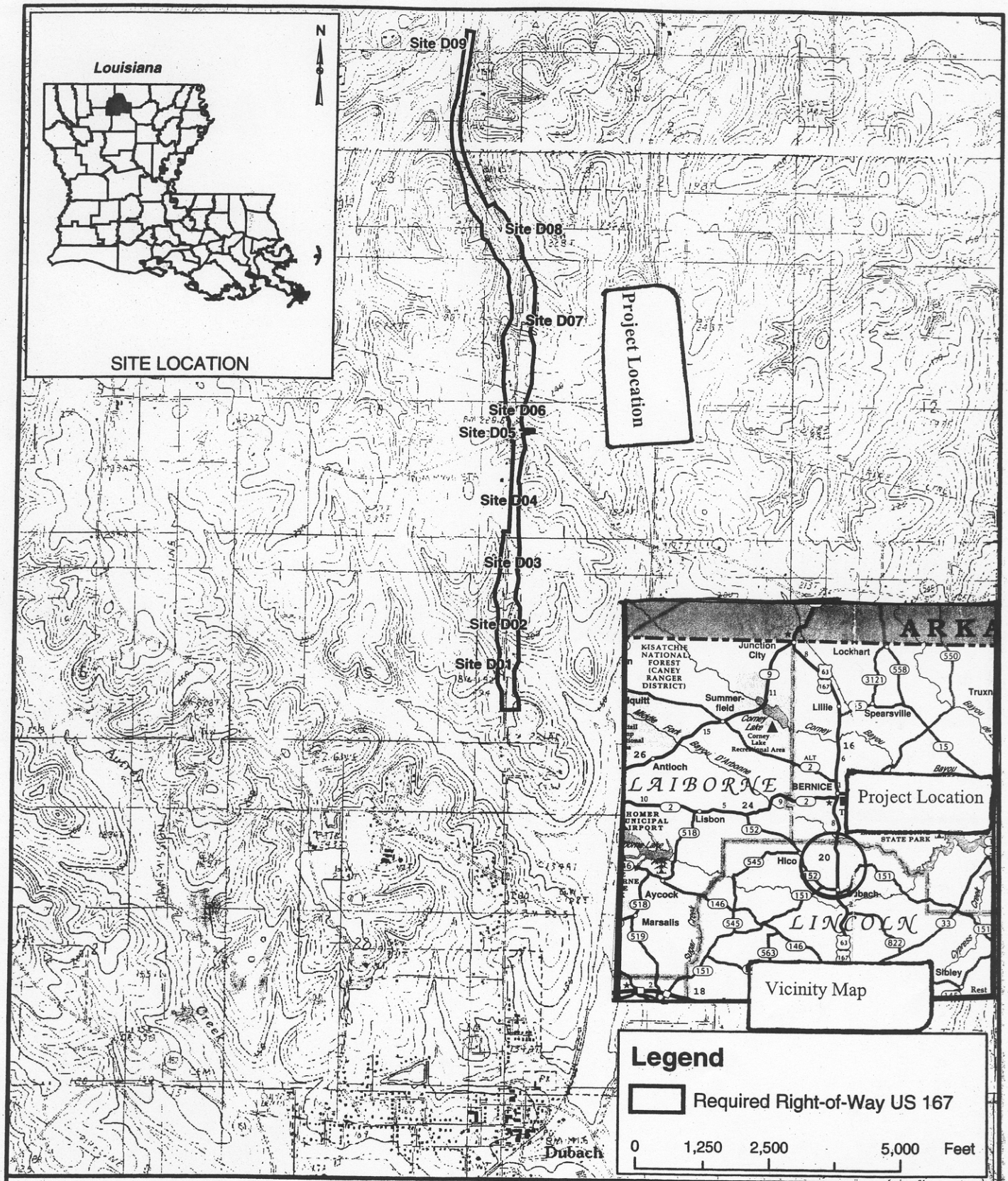
Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits that may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Public Involvement: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

Notification of Final Permit Actions: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/main.asp, or go directly to the Final Permit Actions web page at http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/PubNotice/MonthlyNotice/pnmain.asp.

W. Harold Lee
Team Leader
Evaluation Section



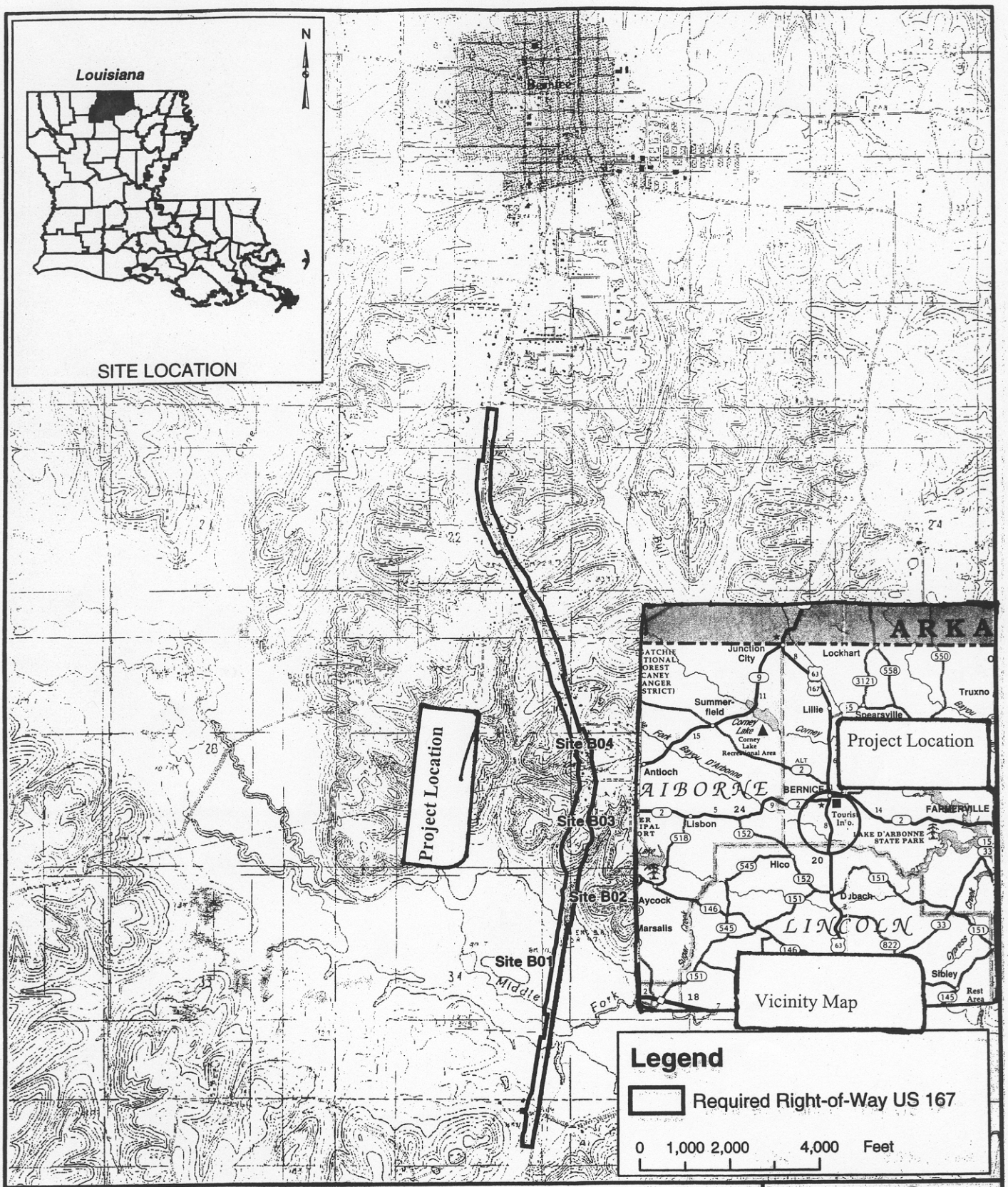
PROJECT LOCATION MAP

US Highway 167, Dubach to Union Line, Lincoln Parish, Louisiana
State Project No. 023-10-0036

(1) SEE TABLE 1

USGS 7.5' Series Quadrangles

GEC
Figure: 02 of 42
Date: May 2004
Scale: 1:30,000
Source: USGS/GEC
Map Author: T. Bruner



PROJECT LOCATION MAP

US Highway 167, Lincoln Line to Bernice, Union Parish, Louisiana
State Project No. 023-11-0025

(2) SEE TABLE 2.

USGS 7.5' Series Quadrangles

GEC

Figure: 03 of 42
Date: May 2004
Scale: 1:36,000
Source: USGS/GEC
Map Author: T. Bruner

WETLAND DELINEATION SITE SUMMARY TABLE 1
STATE PROJECT NO. 023-10-0036
U.S. Highway 167 – Dubach to Union Parish Line
Lincoln Parish, Louisiana
Sites D01 – D09

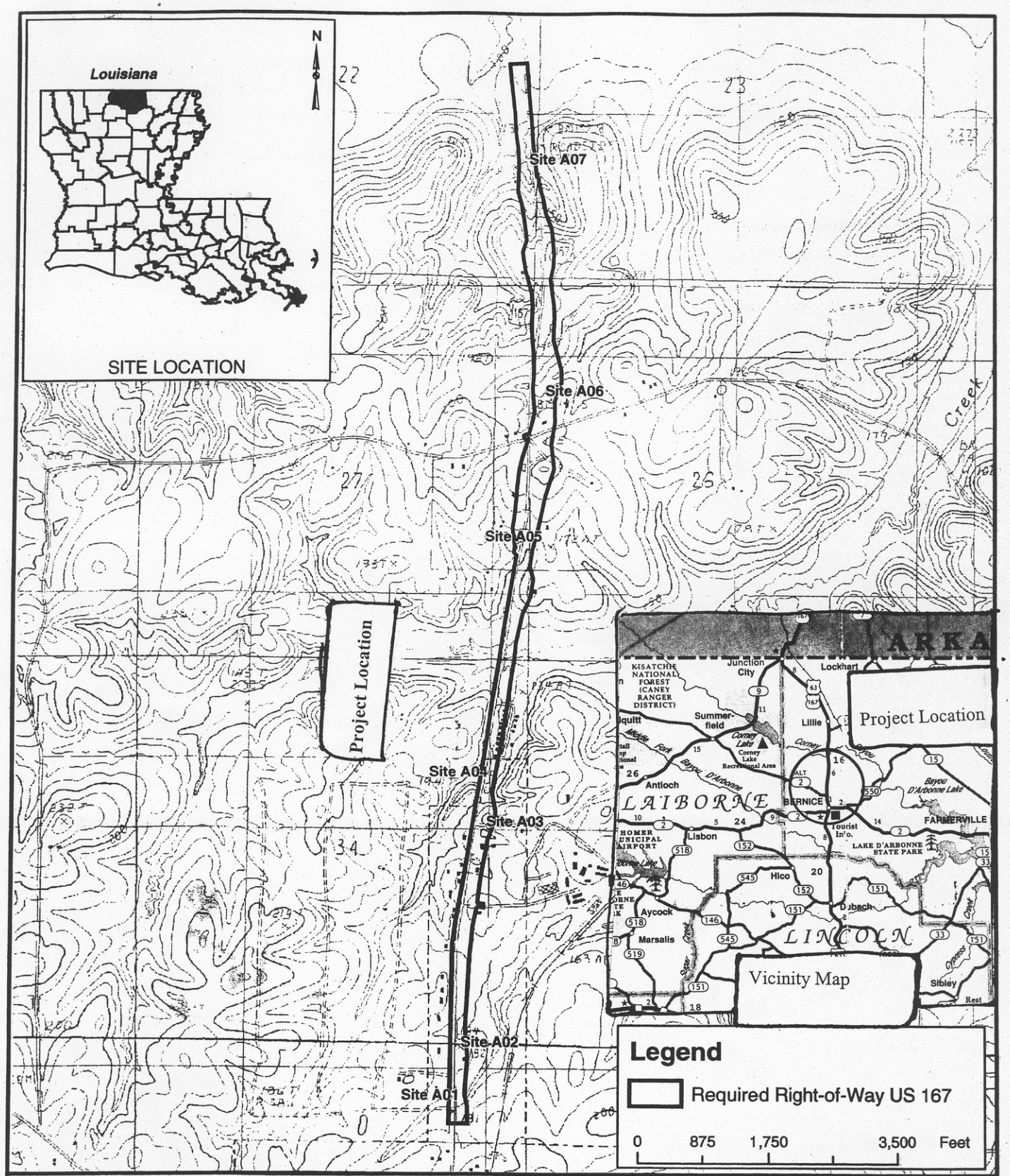
Site	Station		Total Impacts (Acres)		Type
	Start	End	Wetlands	Other Waters	
D01	614+45	615+70	--	0.11	IS
D02	617+40	617+40	--	--	NJ
D03	620+35	620+35	--	--	NJ
D04	625+00	625+00	--	--	NJ
D05	627+10	627+40	--	0.03	IS
D06	629+05	629+30	--	0.01	IS
D07	633+75	634+20	--	0.03	IS
D08	636+25	645+75	--	0.80	IS
D09	649+50	651+05	--	0.17	IS
Totals			--	1.15	

Legend: IS – Intermittent Stream, NJ – Nonjuridictional

WETLAND DELINEATION SITE SUMMARY TABLE 2
STATE PROJECT NO. 023-11-0025
U.S. Highway 167 – Lincoln Parish Line to Bernice
Union Parish, Louisiana
Sites (B01-B04)

Site	Station		Total Impacts (Acres)		Type
	Start	End	Wetlands	Other Waters	
B01	659+38	668+75	4.19	0.98	BD/BLH
B02	668+00	670+60	--	0.10	IS
B03	674+50	675+25	--	--	NJ
B04	680+25	680+50	--	--	NJ
Totals			4.19	1.08	

Legend: BD – Bayou D'Arbonne Middle Fork, Middle Fork Relief, BLH - Bottomland Hardwood Forest; IS – Intermittent Stream; NJ – Non-Jurisdictional site



PROJECT LOCATION MAP

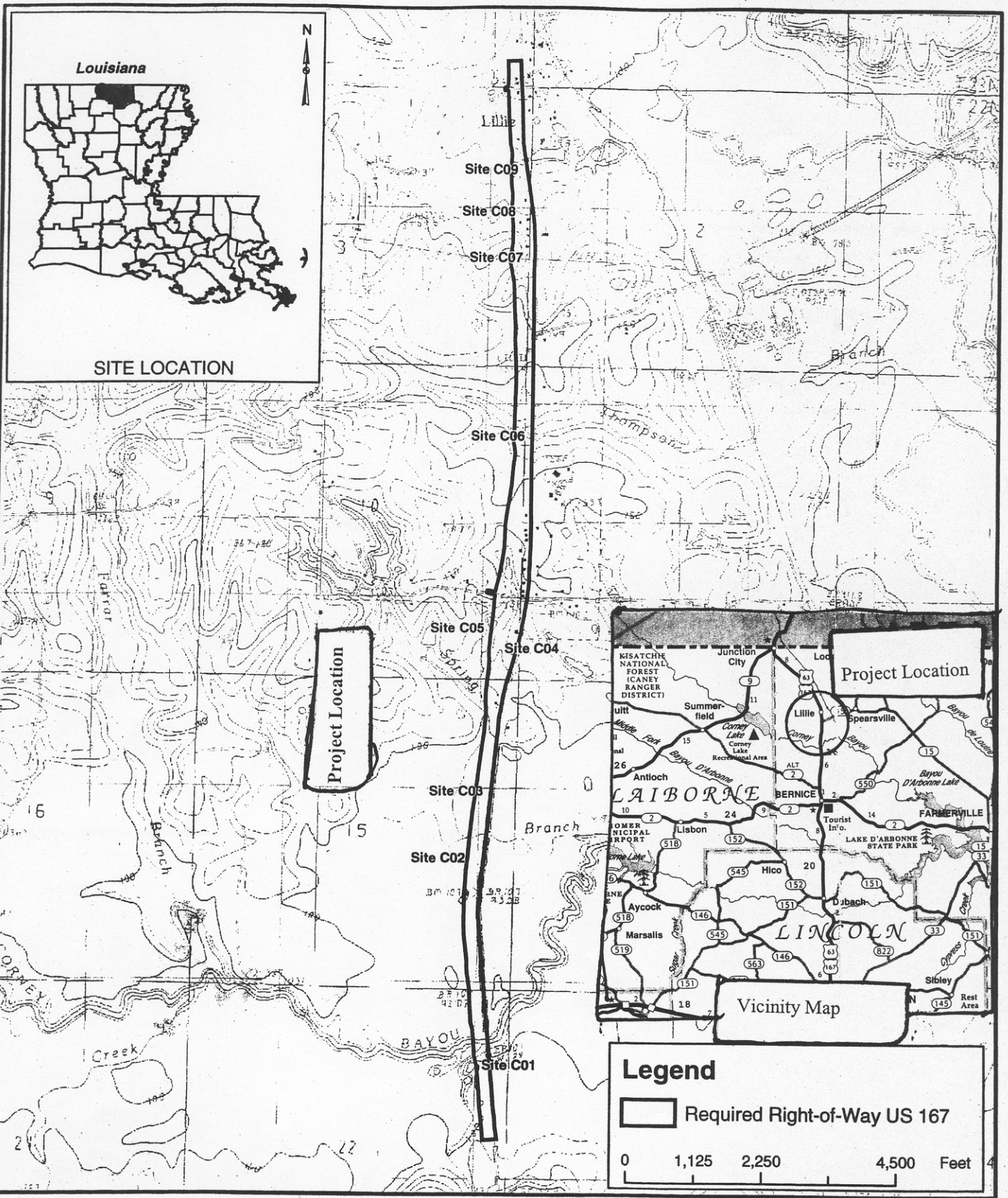
US Highway 167, LA 2 Alt. to Corney Bayou, Union Parish, Louisiana
State Project No. 023-11-0026

(3) SEE TABLE 3.

USGS 7.5' Series Quadrangles

GEC

Figure: 04 of 42
Date: May 2004
Scale: 1:21,500
Source: USGS/GEC
Map Author: T. Bruner



PROJECT LOCATION MAP

US Highway 167, Corney Bayou to Lillie, Union Parish, Louisiana
State Project No. 023-11-0030

(4) SEE TABLE 4.

USGS 7.5' Series Quadrangles

GEC

Figure: 05 of 42
Date: May 2004
Scale:1:27,000
Source: USGS/GEC
Map Author: T. Bruner

WETLAND DELINEATION SITE SUMMARY TABLE 3
STATE PROJECT NO. 023-11-0026
U.S. Highway 167 – Louisiana Highway 2 Alt. to Corney Bayou
Union Parish, Louisiana
SITES (A01-A07)

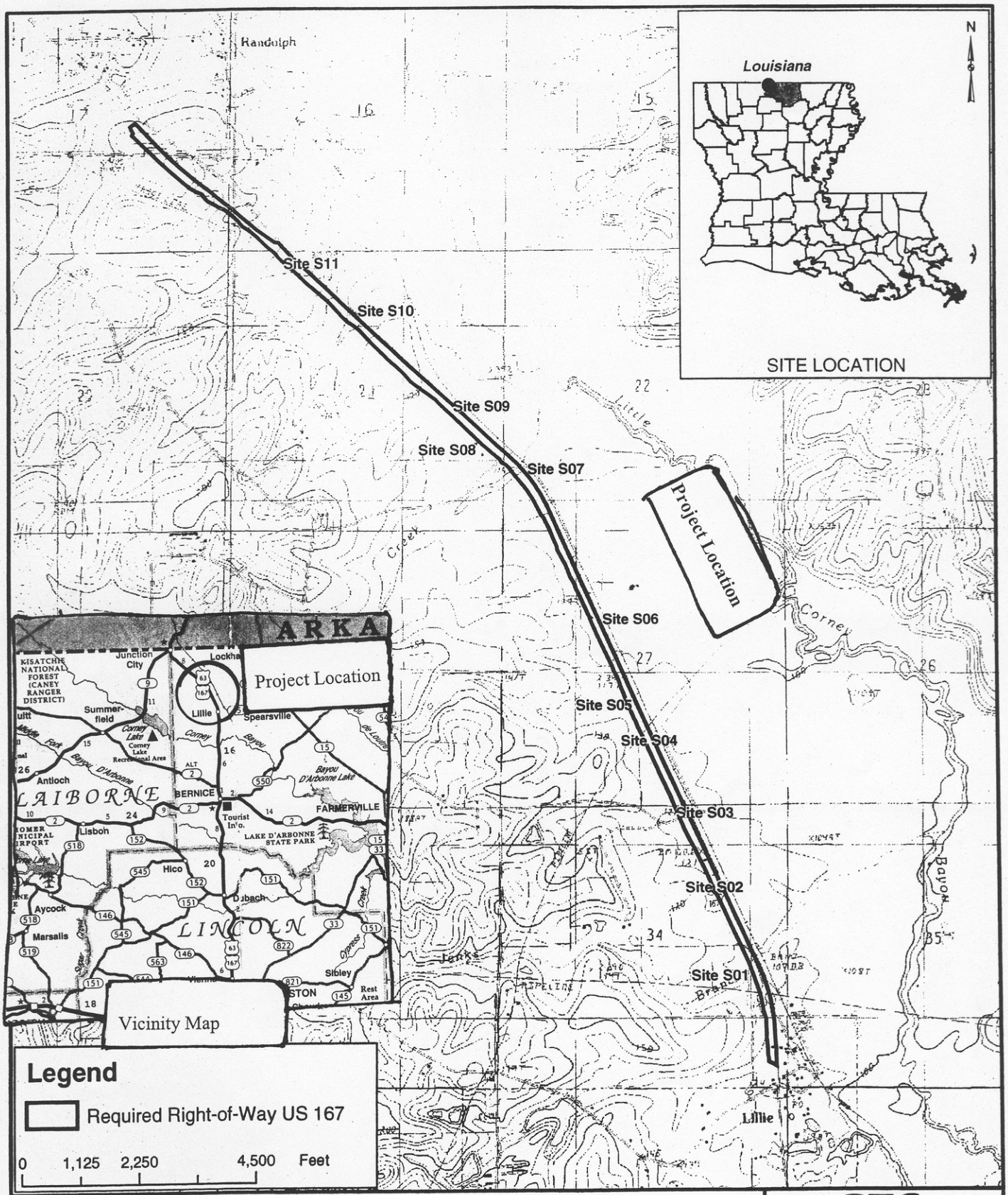
Site	Station		Total Impacts (Acres)		Type
	Start	End	Wetlands	Other Waters	
A01	752+00	752+50	--	0.03	IS
A02	755+00	755+20	--	0.09	ES
A03	763+45	763+75	--	--	NJ
A04	765+45	771+50	--	0.47	IS
A05	775+90	776+25	--	--	NJ
A06	782+50	783+25	--	0.08	IS
A07	791+10	792+10	--	--	NJ
Totals			--	0.67	

Legend: IS – Intermittent Stream, ES – Ephemeral Stream, NJ – Non-Jurisdictional Site

WETLAND DELINEATION SITE SUMMARY TABLE 4
STATE PROJECT NO. 023-11-0030
U.S. Highway 167 – Corney Bayou to Lillie
Union Parish, Louisiana
SITES (C01-C09)

Site	Station		Total Impacts (Acres)		Type
	Start	End	Wetlands	Other Waters	
C01	797+75	798+30	1.15	0.95	CB/BLH
	800+00	802+25			
C02	802+75	811+35	6.49	--	BLH
			3.80		HW
C03	811+25	815+50	1.19	0.54	SB/SS-HW
C04	819+30	826+30	0.49	0.49	IS/HW
C05	822+20	823+05	--	--	NJ
C06	832+75	835+60	--	0.09	IS
				0.09	ES
C07	840+50	841+25	0.54	0.09	IS/SS
C08	844+00	845+15	0.75	0.13	IS/BLH
C09	846+40	847+35	0.44	0.06	IS/BLH
Totals			14.85	2.44	

Legend: CB – Corney Bayou, BLH – Bottomland hardwood, HW – Herbaceous Wetland, SB – Spring Branch, IS – Intermittent Stream, NJ – Non-Jurisdictional Site



PROJECT LOCATION MAP

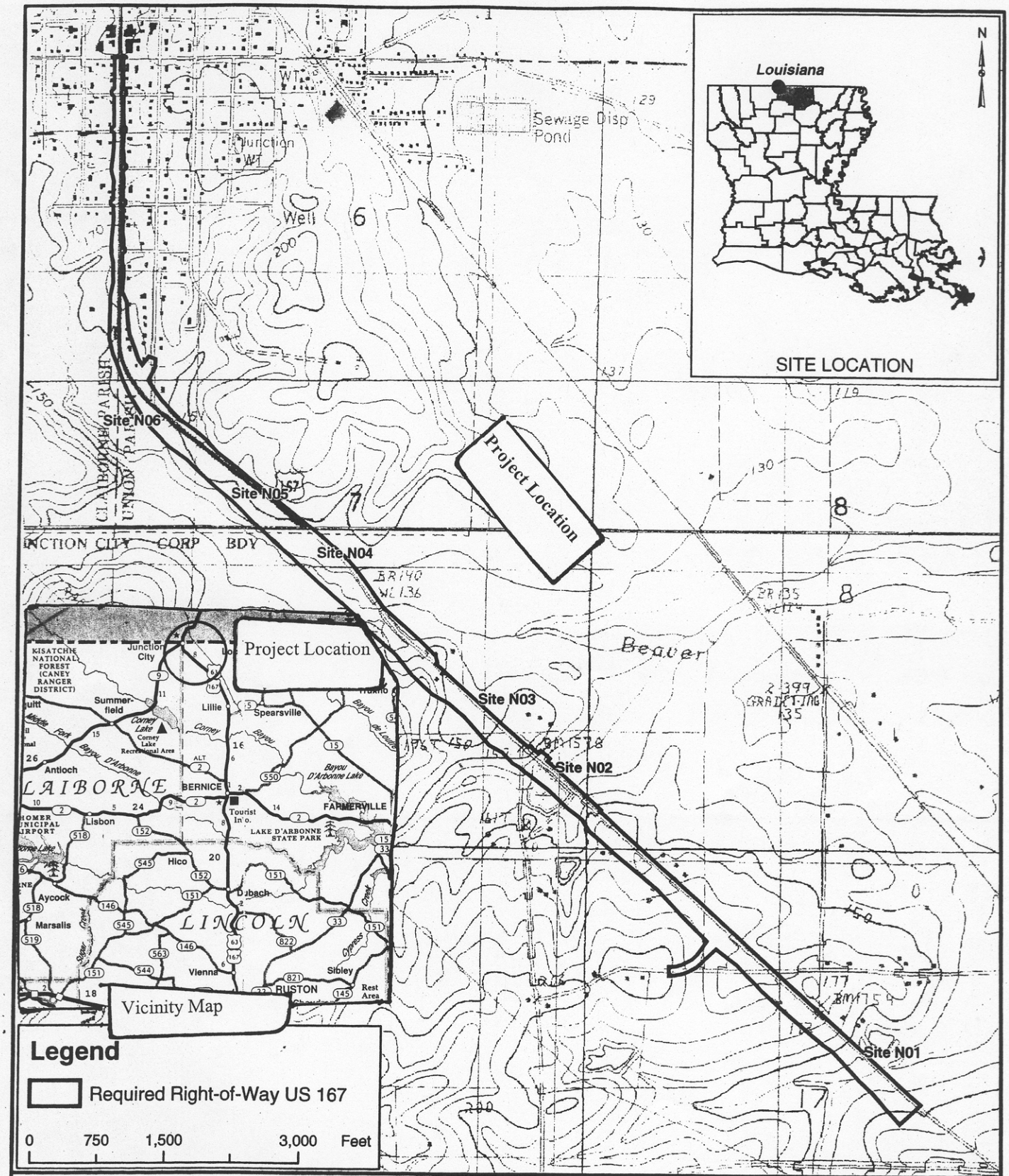
US Highway 167, Lillie to the Arkansas State Line (S. Sect.),
Union Parish, Louisiana
State Project No. 023-11-0031

(5) SEE TABLE 5.

USGS 7.5' Series Quadrangles

GEC

Figure: 06 of 42
Date: May 2004
Scale:1:30,000
Source: USGS/GEC
Map Author: T. Bruner



PROJECT LOCATION MAP

US Highway 167, Lillie to the Arkansas State Line (N. Sect.),
Union Parish, Louisiana
State Project No. 023-11-0027

(6) SEE TABLE 6.

USGS 7.5' Series Quadrangles

GEC

Figure: 07 of 42
Date: May 2004
Scale:1:17,500
Source: USGS/GEC
Map Author: T. Bruner

WETLAND DELINEATION SITE SUMMARY TABLE 5
STATE PROJECT NO. 023-11-0027
U.S. Highway 167 – Lillie to Arkansas State Line (South Section)
Union Parish, Louisiana
SITES (S01-S11)

Site	Station		Total Impacts (Acres)		Type
	Start	End	Wetlands	Other Waters	
S01	854+15	858+15	0.64	0.14	JB/BLH
S02	862+35	862+60	0.06	--	BLH
S03	867+65	867+85	--	0.04	IS
S04	872+00	872+00	--	--	NJ
S05	873+00	873+50	--	0.08	IS
S06	876+20	879+25	2.93	--	HP
S07	884+70	886+40	0.99	0.15	LC/HP
	888+80	889+45			
S08	891+85	892+95	--	--	NJ
S09	893+15	894+30	0.32	0.07	IS/HP
S10	901+55	902+70	0.37	0.08	IS/SS
S11	907+70	907+95	0.20	0.02	ES/SS
Totals			5.51	0.58	

Legend: JB – Jenks Branch, BLH –Bottomland Hardwood,
IS – Intermittent Stream, NJ – Non-jurisdictional Site, HP – Hardwood/Pine Forest,
LC – Lee Creek, SS – Scrub/Shrub Wetlands, ES – Ephemeral Stream

WETLAND DELINEATION SITE SUMMARY TABLE 6
STATE PROJECT NO. 023-11-0027
U.S. Highway 167 – Lillie to Arkansas State Line (Northern Section)
Union Parish, Louisiana
SITES (N01-N06)

Site	Station		Total Impacts (Acres)		Type
	Start	End	Wetlands	Other Waters	
N01	919+50	922+25	3.12	0.09	IS/BLH
N02	934+10	934+75	2.54	0.07	IS/HP
	934+85	936+90			
N03	939+00	939+85	0.55	--	BLH
N04	943+70	948+10	5.67	0.78	BC/HP
N05	950+70	950+75	--	0.04	ES
N06	953+30	953+95	--	0.08	IS
Totals			11.88	1.06	

Legend: IS – Intermittent Stream, BLH – Bottomland Hardwood,
BC – Beaver Creek, HP – Hardwood/Pine Forest, ES – Ephemeral Stream, IS – Intermittent Stream